for the 10th Plan Period (2002-07) to improve the competitiveness of the Indian exporters in the global markets. These, *inter-alia*, are:

Assistance to State for Developing Export Infrastructure.

Establishing Agri Export Zones.

Market Access Initiative.

Strengthening "Focus-LAC" Programme.

Introducing "Focus-Africa" and "Focus-CIS" Programmes.

Focus on service exports.

Strengthening Special Economic Zones and 100% Export

Oriented Units.

Strengthening of Duty Neutralisation scheme for import of inputs used for export products.

Targets for Exports in Tenth Plan

24. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for export in the Tenth Plan;

(b) how it compares with the target set in the Ninth Plan;

(c) the achievements made against the target in the Ninth Plan;

(d) whether the target set for the Tenth Plan is realistic;

(e) if so, how it is proposed to meet the target; and

(f) the growth in exports achieved during the first year of the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) As per the Tenth Five Year Plan document, exports are projected to increase by 12.4% per annum during Tenth Plan from US$ 44915 million in 2001-02 to US $ 80419 million by 2006-07 which is in line with the 12% annual growth rate envisaged in the Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07 announced by the Commerce Minister. The Ninth Plan had envisaged

a growth of 11.8% per annum in exports. As against this target, the actual growth during the Ninth Plan was 5.6%.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The target set for the Tenth plan is realistic. Based on the strategies contained in the Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07, announced in January, 2002, a number of programmes/ schemes have been launched through the Union Budget, 2003-04 and Exim Policy, 2003-04. In the Exim Policy, 2003-04, besides, the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's) etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Duty Neutralization Schemes for import of inputs used for export production have been strengthened. Export Promotion being a constant endeavor of the Government, export performance is continuously monitored on a regular basis to reach the target.

(f) The value of exports of India's merchandise goods were US$ 52234.40 million during the first year of the 10th Plan i.e., (April-March, 2002-03) implying a growth rate of 19.2% in dollar terms.

Exports of fruits

25. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export of fruits suffered a setback on account of war in Iraq; and

(b) if so, the loss in terms of rupees suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is very little impact on export of fruits and vegetables including mangoes on account of war in Iraq. A small reduction in exports to the Gulf countries is apparent because of increased costs as a result of air freight hike, war risk premium and recent evacuation of ethnic population from the Gulf countries etc.